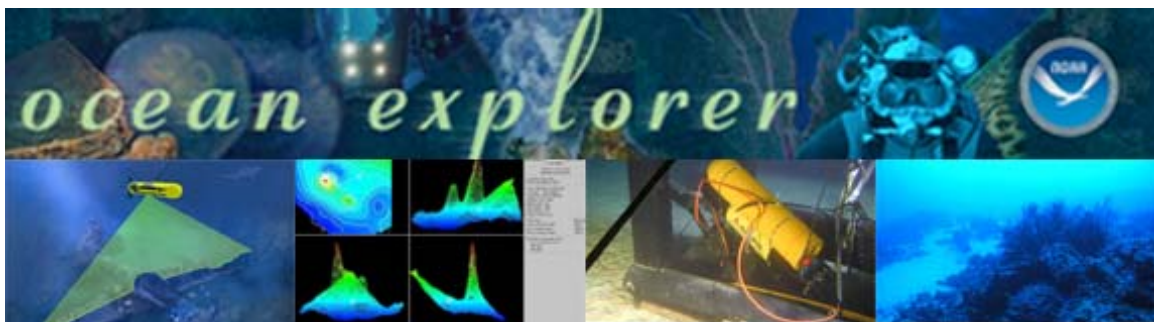


NOS Special Projects Highlights: November 2006

Project of the Month

Ocean Explorer Web Site

Posted daily logs and images for Operation Laser Line Scan 2006, which took place in November, off the coast of Maui. The purpose of the mission was to test laser line scan (LLS) technology to survey the ocean floor. Ocean Explorer visitors followed this mission closely through daily logs—including the unfortunate loss of the laser line scanner on November 11 and recovery two days later with the help of the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory. (Mike Shelby)



[HTTP://WWW.OCEANEXPLORER.NOAA.GOV/EXPLORATIONS/O6LASERLINE/WELCOME.HTML](http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/O6LASERLINE/WELCOME.HTML)

NOS

South Florida Benthic Habitat Mapping Activities Update

Met with key representatives of the South Florida Water Management District to provide them with an introduction to the southern Florida coral ecosystem mapping project and begin to identify mapping-related activities of mutual interest. An initial mutual interest is the need to map the distribution of seagrasses in Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay. (Steve Rohmann)

“On Galapagos” Delegation

Accompanied and served as a translator to a Galapagos delegation composed of nine people representing different sectors from the Galapagos, Ecuador, in a training trip to several National Marine Sanctuaries. (Percy Pacheco)

NOS Data Explorer

Posted the complete set of digital environmental sensitivity index (ESI) geographic information system and map products on the NOS Data Explorer portal. This represents the first time that the entire collection of digital ESI products is available online at no cost to the public. To access the data, visit: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/dataexplorer/welcome.html>. (Robb Wright)

National Marine Sanctuary Flower Gardens Web Site

Assisted in a three-month effort to relaunch the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Web site, <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>. Special Projects conducted multiple audits of the site to make sure it met OMB, DOC, NOAA, and NOS requirements and conformed to W3C and Section 508 guidelines. On November 29, Special Projects promoted the prototype site and made it available to the public. (Lawrence Charters)

NOS-wide Communication Initiative

Continued participation in a joint effort with the NOS Communications and Education Division and the NOS Policy, Planning & Analysis Division to identify ways to enhance NOS constituent communications. In November, the group met with representatives from each program office to review policy and outreach objectives in calendar year 2007; to identify potential areas where Management and Budget and the Assistant Administrator's offices could provide support for these objectives; and to brainstorm criteria that will be used in a discussion with program and NOS leadership about priorities in 2007. (Carol Kavanagh and Tim Goodspeed)

Ocean-in-the-News Kiosk

Prepared a briefing document for the NOAA CFO Council to propose sharing fiscal year 2007 costs for the Kiosk. The CFO Council agreed and the funds will be used to continue development of the prototype which will be launched later in 2007. Additionally, the National Museum of Natural History has agreed to the use of enVision software, which will drive access to the Kiosk content. (Mike Shelby)

Ocean Web Portal

Participated in planning meetings with representatives from the Smithsonian and NOAA to begin to identify evaluation methods to assess the Ocean Web Portal. (Davida Remer)

CoRIS Web Site

Launched a coral reef regional essay on Navassa on the CoRIS Web site at http://coris.noaa.gov/about/eco_essays/navassa. Special Projects, in collaboration with the National Ocean Data Center (NODC), crafted this content- and image-rich offering. The essay includes information on Navassa's history, geography, terrestrial biota, marine ecosystems, marine biota, and the status and health of the reef. The Navassa essay is the second in a series of essays that are based on the regions identified in the 2005 State of the Reef report. (Georgia Shao)

NOAA 200th Web Site

Continued to develop the Web site to celebrate NOAA's 200th anniversary. The official launch of the site will take place in conjunction with the NOAA Awards Ceremony, on December 19. (Davida Remer)

GIS Day

Spent November 15, with students at Galway Elementary School in Silver Spring teaching them about the science and applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). "GIS Day 2006" is part of the annual Geography Awareness Week, sponsored by many institutions around the world. After learning the basics about GIS, students were asked to use GIS analysis to assess the potential impacts of a dam being built on the Snake River. (Sarah O'Connor)

Summary of Current Projects by Client: FY07 (as of December 4)

Client	Active	Proposed	Completed	Estimated Level of Effort* (person years)
NOS	27	8	5	10.5
NOS Program Offices	19	4	4	5.3
NOAA	26	7	5	15.4
NOAA Line Offices	3	1	0	3.4
NOAA Goal Teams	10	2	0	6.8
TOTAL	85	22	14	41.4**

*The level of effort estimates will fluctuate as new projects are added and existing projects are completed.

**There is an additional level of effort that goes into SP-specific projects (e.g., administrative).

Special Projects
SSMC4 9th Floor

Questions? Call Dan Farrow
(301) 713-3000 x156